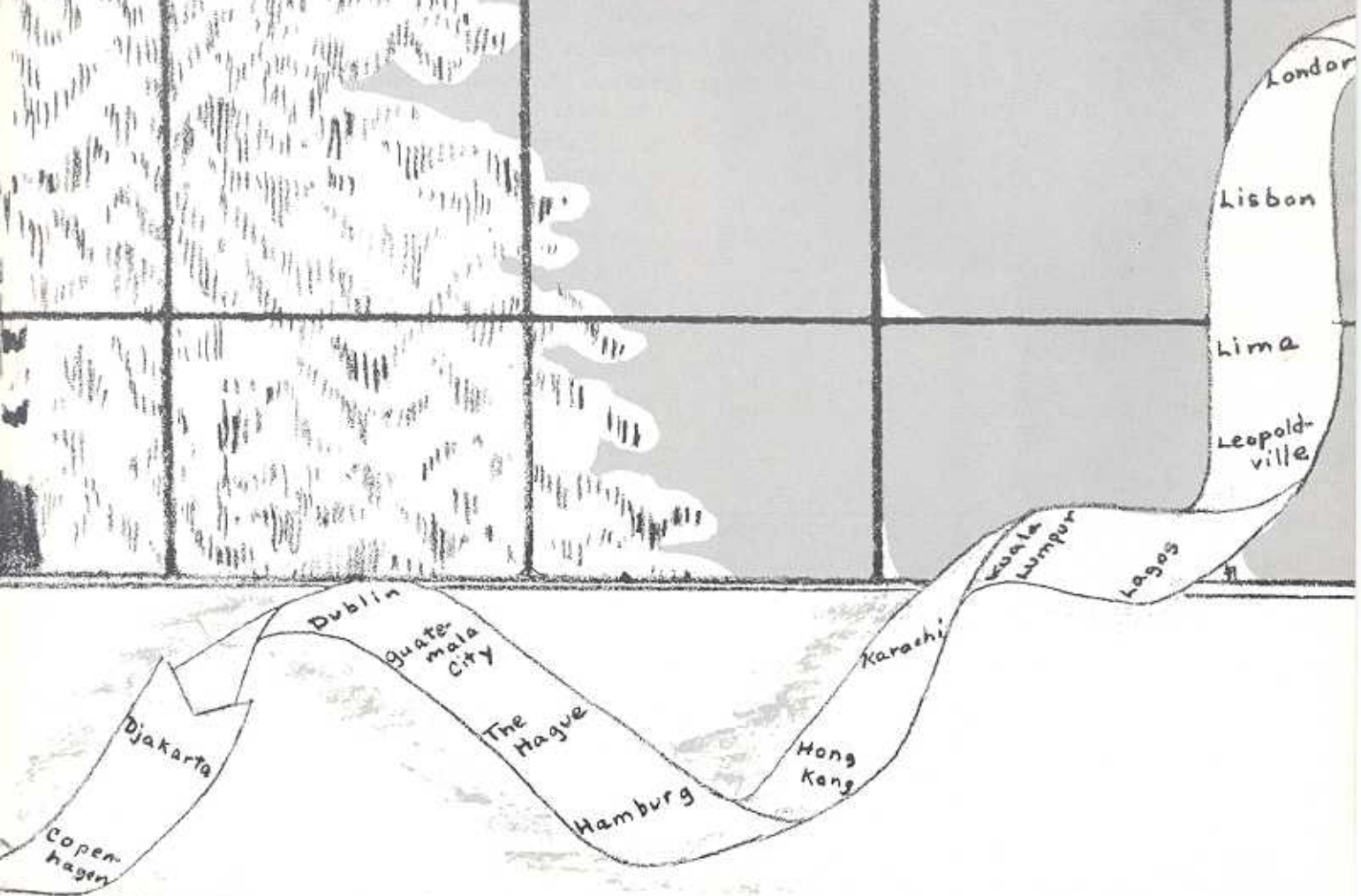


THE F A S LETTER

December 1961



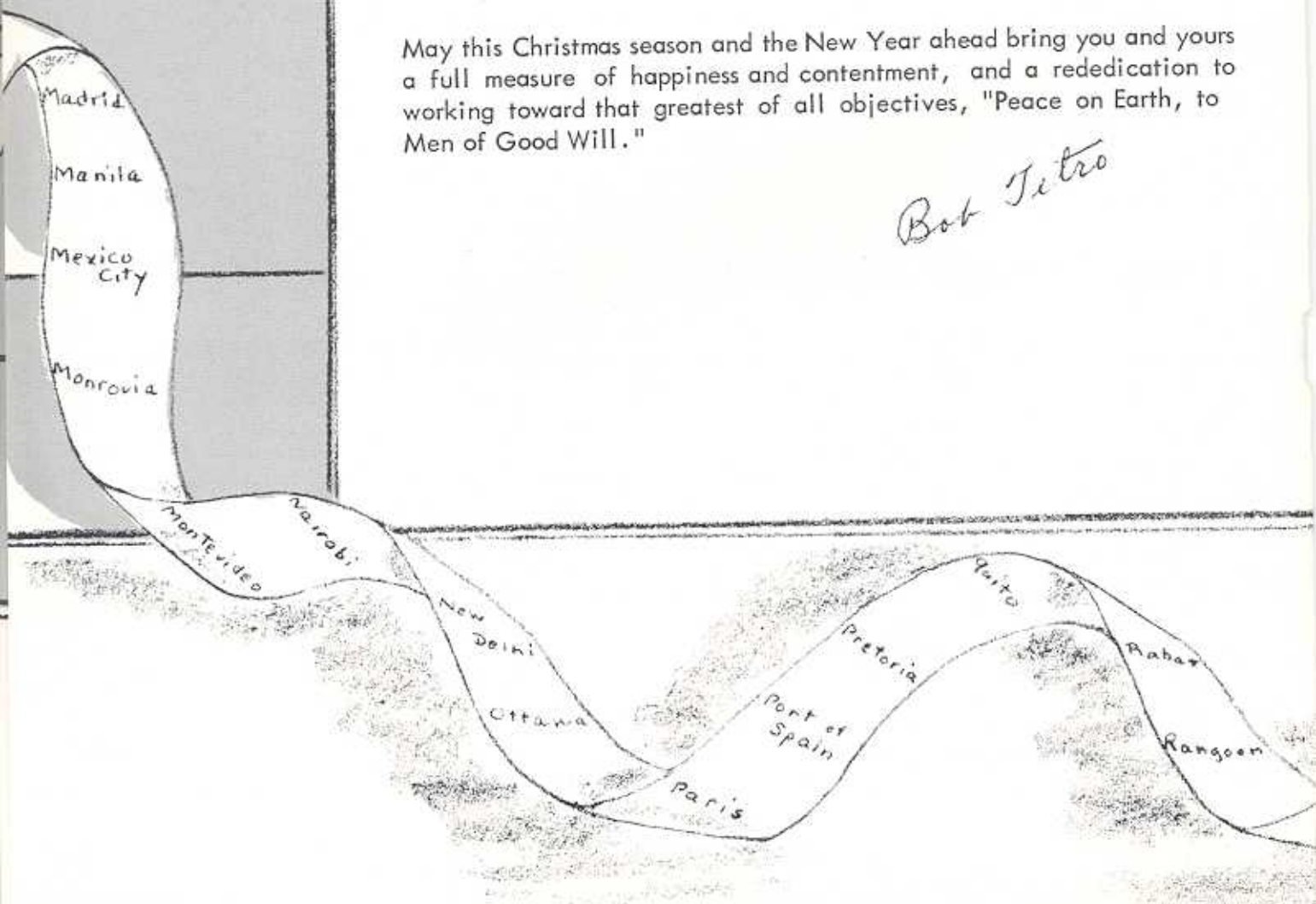
Christmas always seems to me a special time which allows us to indulge in retrospection, to review the past and strengthen our faith in the future. Just as some of the challenges of yesterday have become accomplishments of today, so can our present goals become tomorrow's achievements.

Twelve years ago, during an abnormally rainy autumn in Rome--with an untutored family settling in a strange environment--I did some thinking of this kind. It seemed to me that the opportunity of serving the foreign needs of our nation's farmers was challenge enough for anyone--and one I welcomed.

This conviction has strengthened with the years. Today I thank each of you--overseas and at home--for the effort you have made, and are continuing, to meet this great challenge and opportunity.

May this Christmas season and the New Year ahead bring you and yours a full measure of happiness and contentment, and a rededication to working toward that greatest of all objectives, "Peace on Earth, to Men of Good Will."

Bob Tetlow



CHRISTMAS 'ROUND-THE-WORLD

As Christmas is children's time in so many countries, most of the "news" in this month's Letter centers around the children and the holiday observances of our farflung FAS family.

In the USA... after his trip abroad with Secretary Freeman, our Asst. Adm. for Attaches "Doug" Crawford (still young in heart!) is happy to say that the first worldwide agricultural attache conference in history is definitely slated for May 8-11, 1962, in Washington, D.C., as part of USDA's Centennial observance.

Plans are now being worked out to coordinate home leave schedules so they will precede or follow the big conference. Amanda Halford, attache office, says that the pleasure of seeing so many attaches together will more than compensate for the task of making out travel orders.)

Site of the meeting will be the 4-H Center on Connecticut Ave., Chevy Chase, Md., where housing will be available to conferees. (The Center's 12-1/2-acre grounds were formerly the campus of Chevy Chase Jr. College.)

The conference date was selected to dovetail with the World Food Forum scheduled for downtown Washington May 15-17, and with "International Days" to be held May 21-25 in a number of states as a part of the Centennial observance of the Land-Grant colleges.



At the November meeting of the FAO Council in Rome, FAS Administrator Bob Tetro was elected First Vice-Chairman of the Council. Chairman is Louis Maire, of Switzerland.



JO ANN MOTZ, 13, arranges her Japanese doll collection to show new friends in Arlington, Va.

This is Jo Ann's first Christmas in the USA. As the adopted daughter of John and Althea Motz, she has many traditional customs to teach her Motz brothers, Larry and Jimmy.

Attache "Chuck" Elkinton (C.M.), on his way home from Tokyo, is due in Washington about Dec. 22. After home leave, he is slated to replace prospective retiree Gus Burmeister as Asst. Adm. for International Affairs.

Meanwhile, Don Motz (John D.) is pinch-hitting in Tokyo as acting attache until Christmas, when he'll return to Washington to perform his new duties as Director of the Office of Internal Audit.



THE Orient

INTRODUCING:

Jaak Jaak, 1½

Jeek Jeek, 11

Jook Jook, 3½

They are the young son and two daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Bhornchai ("Sam") Kunalai, FAS agricultural assistant in Bangkok, Thailand.

The youngsters' real names are Kamjonchai, Araya, and Naraporn--they'd be sweet by any name!



"LIVING DOLLS" these are. An inanimate "dakko-chan" Santa Claus doll is in foreground. Left to right: Naomi, 3½, and George (Joji), 7 months--children of our local clerk Kuniharu Kiyomiya in the Tokyo attache office.



It's a wonderful world East of the Sun and West of the Moon, wherever you are.

Regardless of race or creed, the celebration of the Yuletide or comparable festivals is more or less general in the cosmopolitan Far East, where there are cultural heritages of many holidays.

East does meet West on feast days throughout the year--Christmas, Chinese New Year, the Muslim "Hari Raya Puasa," or the Hindu "Deep-avali" (Chain of Lamps).



As Attache Q. Martin Morgan writes from Kuala Lumpur, MALAYA, "We not only have the opportunity of celebrating Christmas with our Western friends, but we are also able to enjoy, and participate in a small way, in the comparable festivals of our many good non-Christian friends."



In BURMA, as ex-attache Art Rollefson recalls, "There were always the giant poinsettia bushes to provide a traditional Christmas touch--and, as a bonus, there was the fragrance of frangipani floating through open windows, and local carolers whose standard repertoire is "April Love," "O Little Town of Bethlehem," and Red River Valley!"



"Mac" MacDonald (Donald L.) will be missing Christmas in Karachi this year. After 6 years in PAKISTAN, he and his family are moving on to LEBANON after holiday-time home leave. "Mac" is scheduled to be attache at the reactivated post of Beirut, which has been "dormant" since 1950.



In INDIA, the attache staff has been busy getting ready for the 4th session of the FAO group on Coconut and Coconut Products, Nov. 27-Dec. 9 at Trivandrum. Olav Anderson, Fats & Oils Div., is the U.S. delegate, and Stephen C. Hughes, asst. attache in New Delhi, is a member of the U.S. delegation.



ELIZAPETH CHO, 9, poses with her mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Cho Kim Hock, at door of new American Consulate building opened last July in Singapore.

In addition to Malay and English, little Elizabeth speaks several Chinese dialects (and we understand she pushes a fast bicycle pedal).

Her father, an FAS Superior Performance awardee, is agricultural asst. in Malaya.

In the PHILIPPINES, the Manila attache staff and families always look forward especially to the strains of sweet music that waft through the air at Christmas time; for several days before the holiday, numerous children's choral groups visit homes singing traditional Noel songs.

On Christmas night, people traditionally go to the "Misa de Gallo," and after midnight it is customary to eat Babinka rice cakes. Pine trees are brought down from northern highland area of Luzon. Christmas decorations consist mostly of large colored stars made on bamboo frames and covered with brightly colored tissue paper.

Gifts are exchanged between children, but Christmas is a day when families get together to pay their respects to their grandparents. Native dishes for Christmas day are usually prepared from rice. More exotic varieties of red and purple rice are used to make many types of sweet cakes and candy.



In Europe, whence came our Christmas Tree, our "Silent Night," our carols, and other Nativity customs so old that some still reflect the Druidic influence, rooftops and chimneys are being readied for the Kindly Old Gentleman who needs no passport (which is just as well since he changes his name from country to country).

In BONN, where a White Christmas isn't unheard of, but less likely than in Washington, the attache group will join with German friends in welcoming the "Weihnachtsmann" (Santa).

A traditional German Christmas Eve features the "Bunte Teller," a plate of colorful goodies including Lebkuchen and Marzipan. In the early evening, the tree with its candles (not electric bulbs) is lighted while carols are sung.



KATHY SCHAAL, 7, of Arlington, Va., and tiny Iris Fangauf, 4, are charmed by one of the maidens who emerged from the Fountain of Youth at the recent Hamburg Fair.

Kathy is the daughter of Wilbert and Mary Schaal (he was Fair manager); Iris is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. K. W. Fangauf (he's German representative of the Soybean Council of America, Inc.).

The Ellertson children--Gilbert, Jaime, Rebecca Ann, and Amy--are eagerly looking forward to their first Christmas abroad, in the country where "Silent Night" originated.

Their father, Norris C. Ellertson, recently replaced Einar Jensen as attache in Vienna.

Perhaps they will be visiting this memorial chapel erected at the site of the original church in the village of Oberndorf, Austria, where the carol was first sung, Dec. 24, 1818, by its composers, Franz Gruber and Josef Mohr--with a guitar for accompaniment.



The original church was destroyed by flood in 1899.

IN S PAIN

It will be a Spanish Christmas for Ivy W. Duggan, newly appointed attache in Madrid. Ivy, with Mrs. Duggan, arrived at his post Nov. 12, and Attache Bill Lodwick departed Nov. 26, for FAS/Wash.

Our new Madrid attache, a native of Sparta, Ga., has been vice-president of the Trust Co. of Georgia since 1953. His broad agricultural experience dates back to 1924; from 1938 to 1944 he was director of the Southern Division of USDA's Agricultural Adjustment Administration, and from 1944-53 was governor of the Farm Credit Administration.



Jose Rivera, economic asst. in Madrid, has been getting a taste of the American holiday season. He arrived in the USA in mid-November, accompanying a 3-man market promotion wheat team. The trip is sponsored by Great Plains Wheat, Inc. with the cooperation of FAS.

The Christmas season in SWEDEN really begins on Dec. 13, St. Lucia's Day, when early in the dark morning, the family members are awakened by the young daughter of the house who brings them coffee and newly baked Lucia buns and cakes. (St. Lucia was a Christian maiden, martyred under Diocletian.)



Christmas Eve, which to the Swedes is THE day, usually begins with a traditional luncheon of "doppa i grytan," eaten in the kitchen with colored candles and boughs of fragrant pine and spruce. In the evening, in comes "Jultomten," the Swedish Santa Claus, drawn--not by reindeer, but by prancing goats.




ABOVE: Cecilia, Dag, & Catharina Frostenson; their father is agricultural economist on Attache Harry Varney's staff in Stockholm.

They will soon be donning white gowns and green wreaths, topped by lighted candles, to participate in the Embassy staff's Lucia procession, as they did last year (LEFT).



HONORING ST. LUCIA

Dena Dworsky, one-time attache secretary in Bonn and in Rio--and now working in FAS/Wash for Deputy Asst. Adm. Dick De Felice--recently "hit the road" again. She is spending 3 weeks helping out in Geneva at the 19th Session of GATT, but plans to be back in Washington before Christmas.



THE FAS LETTER

To U. S. Agricultural Attache Posts

United States Department of Agriculture
Foreign Agricultural Service
Washington 25, D.C.

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Christmas Cover Design: Janet Real



EVERY DAY is Christmas for Turkish rural children when Sukru H. Kasaboglu (Sukru Bey), agricultural analyst and veteran "ambassador of goodwill" at Ankara, makes a field trip--distributing goodies to youngsters wherever he goes.

In TURKEY, Asst. Attache Oldrich Feifar's children (Julia, Henry, Oldrich, Jr., Joseph, and Linda--ranging in age from 13 to 4, respectively) are looking forward to their first Christmas in Ankara--in an area steeped in religious tradition, and through which Christianity flowed from the Holy Land to the rest of the world.

Look on your map and you will find Izmir just below Istanbul. Well, Izmir is the earliest of cities of pre-Biblical times (Smyrna was the name then) and right near is the birthplace of Mary. St. Paul traveled all over ancient Turkey, and members of the attache staff in Ankara today "walk in the footprints" of St. Paul and St. Peter.

Although Turkey now is a Moslem country, in many Turkish homes the custom of giving gifts has been started by the children through their association with the many American youngsters living there.

*

Harwood McCoy, secretary in the Stockholm attache office, and Mollie Iler, (Rome), picked the same day--December 18--to start their well-deserved home leave.

*

Paul Findlen, asst. attache in London, returned December 4 to Merrie Old England after home leave.

*

Back in Athens, after November consultations in FAS/Wash, is Attache Henry Baehr.

South Seas!

"DOWN UNDER," Jim and Jo Boulware, Susan (17) and Jimmy (13) will be spending this Christmas at sea, en route from Sydney to San Francisco for home leave and duty in Washington. This will be an unusual experience even for the Boulwars, who have spent 12 of the past 15 Christmases in overseas posts (4 each in Japan, Burma, and Australia).



In AUSTRALIA, the Christmas-New Year holiday tends to combine the American Christmas with the July summer holidays. Factories and even some retail stores close for a week or more during the Christmas period.

The early English settlers in Australia soon found that a hearty Christmas dinner was not nearly as enjoyable on a hot summer day as it was in the winter. Jo Boulware can vouch for this. She still remembers 1956, when she spent the day fixing a turkey with all the trimmings. Christmas turned out to be one of the hottest days of the summer.

After such a hot, rich meal on such a hot day, she decided that July 4 is the most appropriate time for a turkey dinner in Topsy-Turvy Land. Cliff de Goede, jr. marketing specialist, (a native of the Netherlands) and British-born Kay Tayler, adm. asst., feel the same way

South America



In most of Latin America, Christmas is celebrated with the same happiness and religious devotion as in many other areas of the globe, though local customs vary.



In GUATEMALA, for example, the Indians (60 percent of the population) make no use of Christmas trees or other conventional motifs; but their Yuletide customs are centuries old.

Attache John Montel, his assistant Oscar Lafuente, and secretary Ana Perez will only be onlookers of the colorful Indian celebration--highlighted by exploding rockets, the ringing of church bells, and the playing of marimbas, drums, and horns ("chirimia").

Special foods and drinks are also featured, and these our attache staff usually get to taste: tamales made of white cornmeal mush stuffed with chopped pork, olives, capers, and "recado."

"Recado" is made from tomatoes, husk-tomatoes, achiote, hot chili peppers, onions and salt. After being stuffed with these ingredients, the mush is wrapped in banana leaves, tied, and boiled in water. Serve hot!



JOHN AND MARTHA PIKE

In MEXICO, typical Yuletide fiestas are called Las Posadas--held in hotels, restaurants, theaters, and homes from the 16th until Christmas Eve to commemorate the 9-day journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem in search of lodging. Everyone takes part in these joyous festivities.



SENORITA Marguerita Leal, 10, daughter of Senor David Leal S., chauffeur-messenger on Attache Burl Stugard's staff, Mexico City, poses in Tlaxtelteca costume.

Duane Clark, former asst. attache in Buenos Aires, is now working in the Program Development Division.

Fidelia Theatford, has joined FAS as secretary to Paul Taggart, new area officer for Latin America. "Del," of Louisville Ky., was formerly with the National Science Foundation.



Children in PERU have two good reasons to be happy at Christmas: first, the usual holiday festivities and gifts, and second, school is out for summer vacation.

← Pictured at left are the Pike children--John (6) and Martha (10)--son and daughter of Attache Clarence E. Pike, Lima. They attend the American School, the Colegio Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Motif: courtesy
of Paul Ferree



Africa

Neil Witting will be back in EGYPT for the Yuletide, after home leave.

Our asst. attache in Cairo says that he, his wife Marjorie, and his two sons, plan to do some holiday picnicking in the warm sands around the Pyramids, as they did last year.



Paul Ferree's youngsters will be having their first Christmas in SOUTHERN RHODESIA this year, where he is agricultural officer at Salisbury.

No doubt Patrick, 4-1/2, and Robert, 3-1/2 will take at least one dip in their swimming pool, and they will probably not even recall their previous experience with sleds and snow in Washington.

Christmas at the Ferree's has come to include a little and both of the traditions of America and Brazil, where Paul was previously stationed. They hope this year to add a few Rhodesian customs.

"Merry

Christmas"

Above, young Bill Witting, 9, focuses his sights on the North in the hope of spotting Santa's sleigh.

He's atop Cheops Pyramid the day before Christmas (1960). Cheops is the largest of the three great pyramids at Giza. Present but not in picture is son Ned, 8.

What ho! Lack-a-day," says Santa, "my sleigh,
Filled with bountiful cheer for each attache
Is proof quite conclusive that the spirit elusive
Of old-fashioned Christmas is coming your way!"

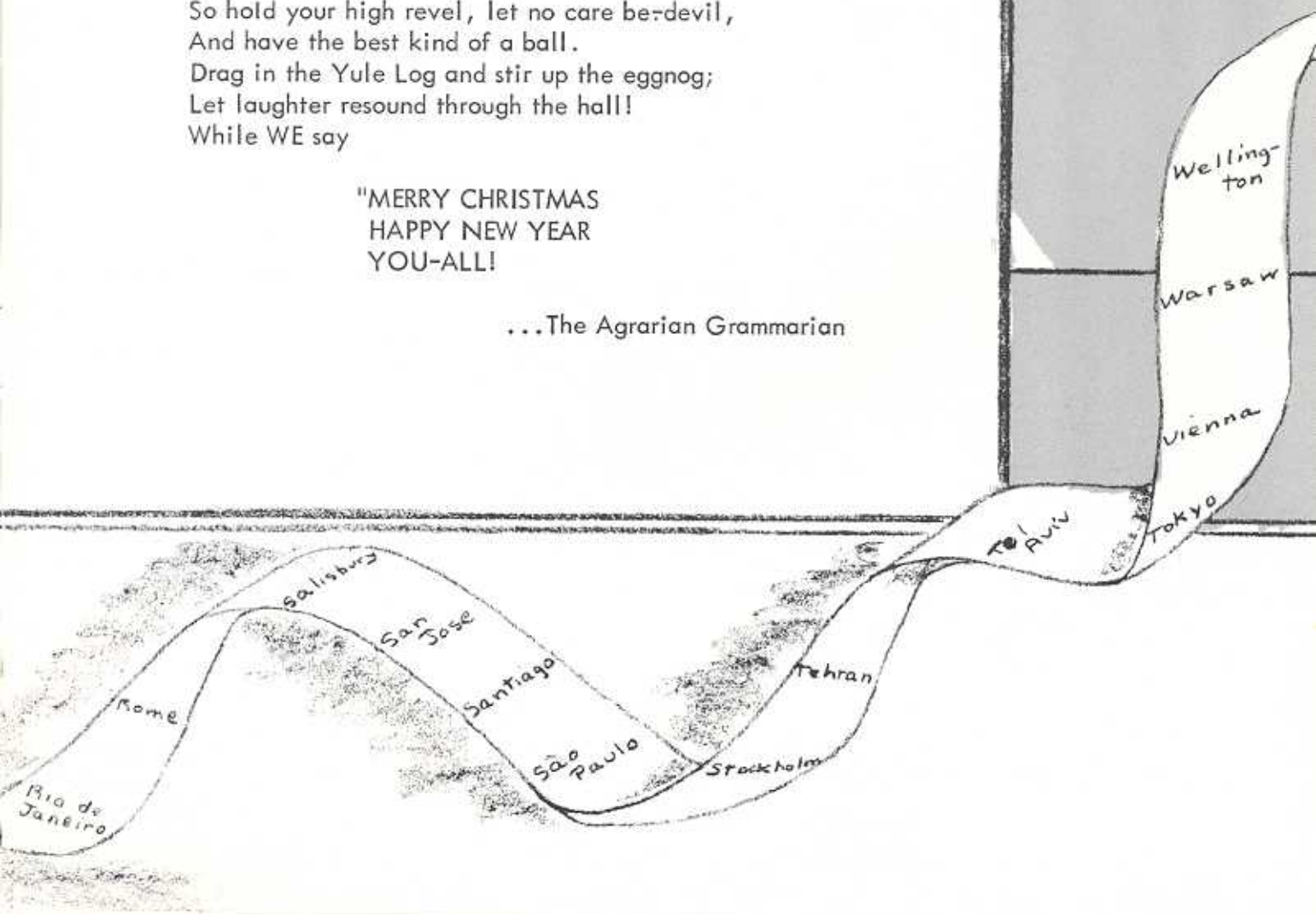
So gambol, cavort--do all that you ought
To brighten the Season--have fun!
In Excelsis sing Gloria from The Hague to Pretoria;
Let's keep all our blues on the run.

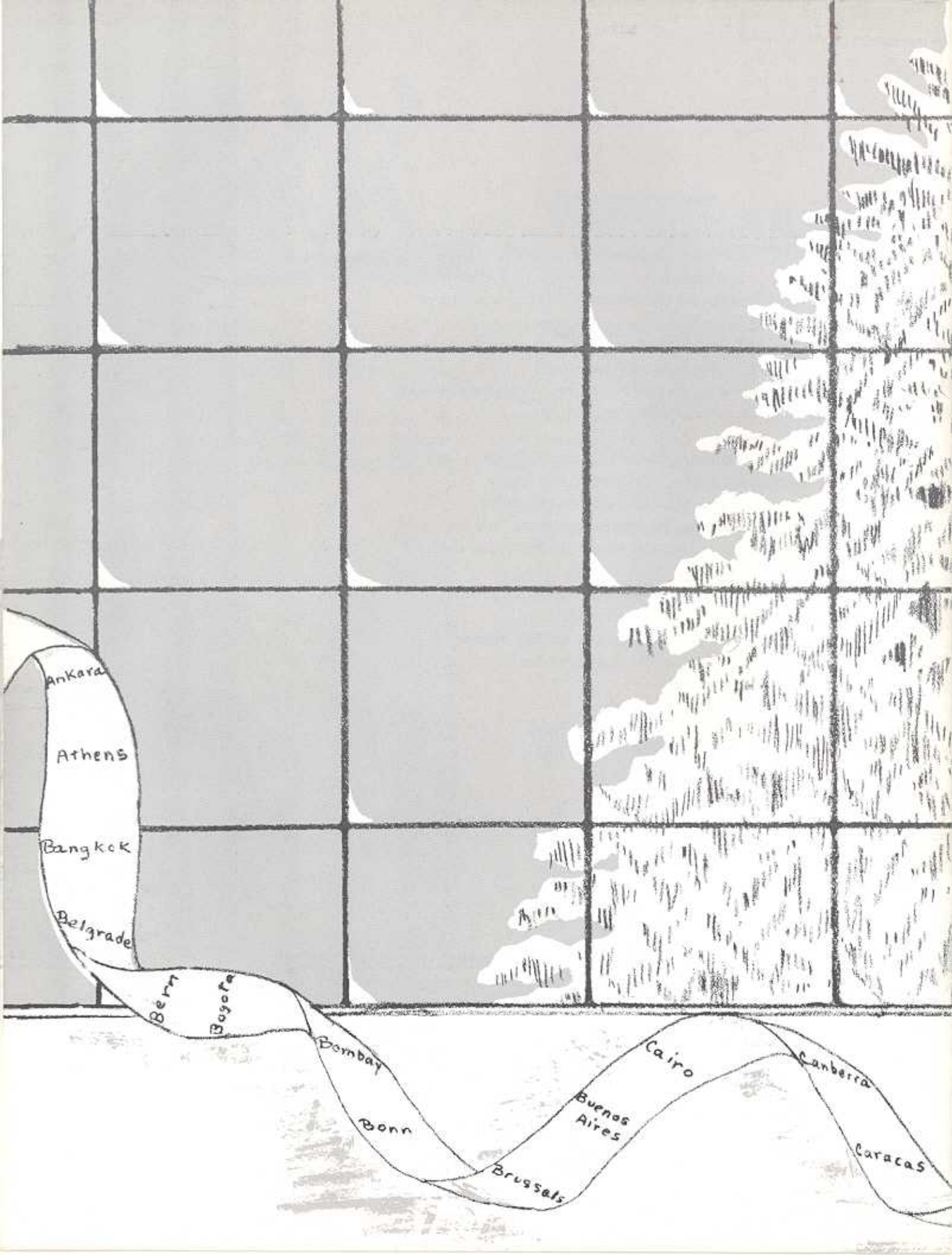
May your loved ones all--Sharon, Tommy, and Paul,
Ermintrude, Mary, and dear little Sairy,
Raise voices angelic the Joy to proclaim.
Hang high the holly, show how to be jolly;
With peace and good will to all men your aim.

So hold your high revel, let no care be-devil,
And have the best kind of a ball.
Drag in the Yule Log and stir up the eggnog;
Let laughter resound through the hall!
While WE say

"MERRY CHRISTMAS
HAPPY NEW YEAR
YOU-ALL!

...The Agrarian Grammarian





Ankara

Athens

Bangkok

Belgrade

Bern

Bogota

Bombay

Bonn

Brussels

Buenos Aires

Cairo

Canberra

Caracas